(b) Fresh water shrimp has a good demand in UK, Spain, USA, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, etc.

(c) Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) through its Regional Centres in different coastal states promote shrimp farming. Technical staff attached to these field offices assist the local farmers to take up shrimp farming starting from selection of site till the harvest through preparation of project report for availing credit facilities besides extending technical assistance on farm construction, pond preparation seed procurement, selective stocking, pond management, disease control, supplementary fee, marketing etc. MPEDA also extends subsidy assistance for new farm development of prawn hatcheries, and for purchase of seed and feed.

**Abolition of Posts of Supervisors in Ordnance Factories**

4166. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY :
SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4391 on April 3, 1989 and state :

(a) whether the post of Supervisor 'B' (T) has not yet been merged with Chargeman Grade-II(T);

(b) whether as a result thereof a large number of incumbents in the post of Supervisor 'B' (T) have been continuing in the same position for more than a decade;

(c) whether this has further blocked their future promotions to higher posts;

(d) if so, the facts and reasons therefor; and

(e) the immediate steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present stagnation of some Supervisors 'B' (T) in that grade cannot be attributed to such non-merger.

(c) and (d) An application was filled by some Supervisors 'B' (T) before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Madras claiming re-designation of the post of Supervisor 'B' (T) as Chargemen Grade II(T) and consequential benefits. This was dismissed by the Tribunal. The Tribunal also rejected the applicants' plea that their chances of promotion had been affected due to such non-redesignation. A similar application is subjudice before CAT, Calcutta.

(e) Does not arise for the present in view of the replies to (c) & (d) above.

**Financial Allocation to Spices Board**

4167. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial allocation to the Spices Board has been increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation made during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, yearwise;

(d) the amount utilised by the Spices Board during the above years for development of Cardamom, Pepper, Cloves and Nutmeg cultivation;

and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase developmental activities of these cultivations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Year-wise allocations made to Spices Board since 1988-89 to 1990-91 and that proposed for the year 1991-92 are given below :

(Rs. lakhs)

| Year | Plan | Non-Plan | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1988-89 | 392 | 256 | 648 |
| 1989-90 | 403 | 246 | 649 |
| 1990-91 | 437 | 199 | 636 |
| 1991-92 (Proposed) | 620 | 235 | 855 |

(d) The amounts utilised by the Spices Board for development of spices are as follows :

(Rs. lakhs)

| Year | Amount Spent on Cardamom | Pepper | Clove | Nutmeg |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1988-89 | 348.99 | 8.00 | Nil | Nil |
| 1989-90 | 408.72 | 12.00 | Nil | Nil |
| 1990-91 | 345.20 | 10.00 | Nil | Nil |

This expenditure is inclusive of the following amounts obtained from Western Ghat Development Agenices of Kerala and Karnataka.

(Rs. lakhs)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1988-89 | 32.29 |
| 1989-90 | 53.92 |
| 1990-91 | 32.75 |

(e) The Spices Board can undertake developmental activities in respect of cardamom only. The following programmes will be undertaken by the Spices Board for the development of cardamom (both small and large).

(1) Production and supply of high yielding, disease free, healthy seedlings.

(2) Replantation.

(3) Extension activities.

(4) Research on varietal improvement, Pest and Disease management, Agronomic practices, post harvest operations etc.

Production and developmental activities in respect of other spices are undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Amount Spent on Repairs of National Highways in Kerala**

4168. SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways in Kerala affected by rains and floods during the last three years; and

(b) the amount spent on their repairs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) During the last three yoars, all the National Highways in Kerala were affected by rains and floods to varying degree. According to information provided by State PWD, the following amounts were spent specifically for flood damage repairs on the National Highways, apart from other maintenance expenditure:

| Year | Amount |
|---|---|
| 1988-89 | Rs. 257.3 lacs |
| 1989-90 | Rs. 166.90 lacs |
| 1990-91 | Rs. 161.89 lacs |

**Appointments on Board of Directors in Nationalised Banks**

4169. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointments on the Board of Directors of all the Nationalised Banks have been made;

(b) if so, whether due respresentations have been given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on these boards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) the Boards of Directors of the nationalised banks are continuing entities and vacancies of Directors that arise are filled up from time to time. At present 99 non-official Directors are in position on the Boards of nationalised banks and there are 81 vacancies. It is the endeavour of the Government to appoint at least one non-official Director from among the SCs/STs on the Boards of each nationalised bank. At present, 12 nationalised banks have one Director each belonging to SC/ST on their Boards as per the details given in the attached statement.